

This is one item in the constitution in the bill of rights that does not deal with the rights that are related to the State and its people. You will look at the other rights and you will see that it is the State and the people who are protected one against the other. Protection for the people.

But now you are writing into the bill of rights and into the constitution rights as between private citizens, individuals, and you only go part of the way. You talk of their rights to organize. You do not talk of the rights of the public. You do not talk of the rights not to join or to organize.

Now, what will this do? Maryland is a State which in large measure must attract people and industries because of its climate, and by climate I do not mean the air, the rain, or the sunshine, but I mean the kind of life that is in our law with respect to the attitude of the State toward business, industry, workers, and all of the people.

When you pick out one segment and say that the rights vested in them are superior to the rights vested in all the others, you then get a disjointed picture. Industry will not come to a state which puts into its fundamental charter this kind of a public policy which is distorted in its framework. This is wrong. All that has been said can be said, or may hereafter be said with regard to this subject, by the legislature.

In Congress they adopted, and very properly and undoubtedly belatedly, the National Labor Relations Act. All of this was statutory. When it was necessary to bring it closer to center because it was going too far, other statutes were passed. All of this in order that all groups may be properly protected, but bear in mind that what you are doing here relates to your state police, relates to every group who is involved in the operation of government as well as in the livelihood to which they are entitled.

THE PRESIDENT: You have one-quarter of a minute.

DELEGATE SHERBOW: All I am saying to you is that this should be left to the legislature. I hope you will adopt the amendment. I hope that this will not be a part of the bill of rights in this constitution.

THE PRESIDENT: Any other delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Sickles.

DELEGATE SICKLES: Mr. President, fellow delegates, I rise in opposition to the amendment which has been offered. As was

indicated, we went up the hill and down for many hours not too many days ago, and I am sure that there are not going to be any new facts brought to light, but I think we ought to keep this provision, which was adopted by the Committee of the Whole, in proper perspective.

I had the rather interesting experience of attending a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in Prince George's County where I am a member, and of listening to a representative from the Baltimore Association of Commerce who came and explained to our group just exactly what we have done here. He did not understand it. Certainly what he said was far from what we have done here because all we have done, and I think we have to remember this all through the discussion, is establish a basic rate.

We have not concerned ourselves with joining or not joining labor organizations. We have not changed the law with respect to the power of the State to regulate who may strike and who may not. We have not gone into that area at all. We have recognized what I would imagine in the year 1967 would be awfully hard not to recognize, in the industrial State of Maryland, the basic right of employees to assemble together to bargain through representatives of their own choosing and not being subject to threats by their employer or to be fired by so doing. That is just about what we have done.

This does not take from the legislature its power to set up what we call a Little Wagner Act, to deal in detail with the exercise of this basic right that the employees have.

I strongly urge you not to be panicked, and I am reminded of the old Chinese proverb that a dog barks at his shadow and one hundred dogs bark at the sound. Dire predictions are unwarranted in this case. It is a basic right that ought to be established.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Winslow.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of this proposal, and I do it on what I believe is a consistent ground with respect to my vote heretofore in this Convention. I see no place in a bill of rights to select one group of people and write a section for that group unless we are willing to select other groups and do exactly the same thing. This is why I think this is not of constitutional status. I am toying with the idea of introducing an amendment which will set forth the right of retired persons. We are an ever increas-